- Industries have been directed to install necessary pollution control equipment within a stipulated time-frame and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.
- Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for shifting of industries from congested areas.
- Customs and Excise Duty Exemption are provided to the industries for pollution control/ monitoring equipment.
- environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.
- Central Pollution control board has evolved codes of practices for controlling noise from sources other than industries and automobiles.
- Ambient Noise Standards for industrial, commercial and residential areas and silence zones have been notified under environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- Noise standards for automobiles and domestic appliances have been notified at manufacturing stage.
- Noise standards for diesel generator sets from 15 to 500 KVA have been notified.
- Public awareness campaigns on the effects of pollution have been launched.

चाय में मिलावट

1115. **श्री रामजीलालः** क्या खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 15 जनवरी, 1999 के "राष्ट्रीय सहारा" में "खुली चाय में भारी मिलावट की शिकायत" शीर्षक से छपी खबर की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो संबंधित कम्पनी का नाम क्या है और सरकार द्वारा दोषी व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध क्या कार्रवाई की गई है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामलों के मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सत्यपाल सिंह यादव): (क) से (ग) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Enhancement of sugar quota for Kerala

1116. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala government has requested for enhancement of monthly allocation and the special festival quota of the State for sugar to 13690 MTs and 7200 MTs, respectively, considering the increase in ration population since 1991, census; and;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In December 1998 a request to this effect was received from the Government of Kerala which was duly considered by the Government and owing to the fact that the availability of levy sugar had yet to attain stability to the extent needed for any upward revision of quota, the Government of India in February, 1999 did not agree to the State Government's request.

Establishment of consumer information centre in Kerala cities

1117. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at a meeting of Food and Civil Supples Secretaries held in New Delhi on 2nd

May, 1997 and a special meeting with the Secretary to GOI by Kerala government, on the possibility of establishing consumer protection centres in Kerala for the interest of the public in consumer activities an action plan was finalised and it was decided to establish consumer information centres at Trivandrum. Kochin and Kozhikode;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether the Kerala Government has requested for additional financial assistance for the purpose: and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reac.ion thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) A proposal to establish Consumer Information Centres at Thriuvanathapuram, Kochi and Kozikode has been received from Govt. of Kerala. This was duly examined. Since the Central Standing Committee on Consumer welfare Fund had taken a decision to provide financial assistance for one such centre in each State/UT to begin with, the State Government was advised to submit their proposal for one such centre in the proforma prescribed under the consumer Welfare Fund Rules, 1992.

World Bank's observation on TPDS

1118. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Statesman of 9th February, 1999 under the caption. "TPDS open to fraud: World Bank"; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With a view to ensure proper functioning of the Trageted Public distribution System (TPDS) it has been impressed upon the State and the Union Territories that greater transparency should be introduced in the working of the system, inspection schedules should be drawn up for the District Taluk level officers right from the Collector District Magistrate to the Inspector of Supplies, Vigilance Committees should be constituted and their regular functioning ensured. A Model Citizens' Charter for TPDS has also been prepared and circulated to the State/UTs for adoption.

As per the news item, the World Banbk report points out that the highest gains to the poor would come from, iter alia, phasing out completely the second and the untargated channal of PDS. The proposal to bar the affluent sections of the society from access to PDS was discussed in the Conference of Chief Ministrers held of Basic Minimum Services (BMS) held during 4-5 July. 1996.

The Conference, however, felt that as a large section of the population who may be above the poverty line (APL) are also at present getting the benefit of the PDS, suitable measures should be taken to ensure availability of essential commodities at reasonable prices to this section. The general consensus in the Conference of Chief Ministers held on 30.9.1997 to review implementation of TPDS was that there should be no reduction in the allocation to APL families. It has not been possible to exclude the non-poor from PDS because of the lack of consensus on this issue.

Taking Sugar of Loan For PDS

1119. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken sugar on loan from various millers in the country to meet the demand of PDS;